

The Court.

In addition to the Court items given in last week's Press and Banner we append the following:

Judge Presley in the case of Marshall, Executor, against Jones, Sheriff, held that there was no special law in this case, and that the case should be decided on the merits. This is an important ruling and should be borne in mind.

In the case of A. Graham against W. H. Moore, under an old will, involving the old English law of promissory estoppel, the jury found a verdict for the defendant.

An appeal was taken.

In the case of R. C. Simmons against William Robertson for slander. Suit for \$2,000. Verdict \$100. Mr. Robertson is thoroughly disgusted with juries and trial justices.

Case of Sloan & Seligman against F. M. Goodbody. Verdict \$75.

Case of Trustees De La Howe against R. A. McCaslin. Verdict for defendant.

Consent verdict, Lake, Caldwell & Co. against E. L. Tolbert, \$20.

Case of Henry Clinckle against N. E. Johnson. Verdict for defendant.

Two cases of R. A. Armstrong, Clerk, against N. E. Johnson. Verdict for defendant. New trial granted in one case.

Case of Williams, Black & Co., against Connor and Mosley, involved a question of liability of persons buying futures in cotton. The plaintiff asked to have the case set aside for defendants to secure margins. In settlement of this claim one of the purchasing parties gave a joint note. The other defendant, Verdict for plaintiff.

Case of W. W. McFerrin against W. A. Hunter. Judgment for defendant.

Consent verdict in the case of E. A. Hardy against J. W. Trowbridge, and others, for \$175.

Consent verdict case of Henry L. Elliott against Abbeville Agricultural Society \$750.

Consent verdict, in the case of Jones, the Jordan against W. E. Brown, \$2,444.

Case of Hamilton against Walton, involving a lot of old notes, amounting to \$2,500. Verdict for plaintiff.

Case of Brit Brothers against James C. Henderson and Margaret Henderson, executors. Verdict for plaintiff.

Case of John F. Edwards against Margaret Henderson, executor. Verdict, \$319.25.

Case Henry M. Young against Sambo Haddon, and others. Verdict, \$90.

The case of J. N. Young, and others, against James Strawn was a suit to recover on a note. The defendant asked that the note be changed from a plain note to a sealed note, and that the note having been given before the war, it was now out of date. It appeared in evidence that the note was in the handwriting of Rev. J. P. Presley, deceased, to whom the words "Witness my hand and seal," were given. The signature, and the seal, "L. S.," which followed it, was written in a different ink, although by the same hand. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.

James Weems against G. W. Cromer. The case was a suit to recover from a note. The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, giving him the note as well as \$20 damages. Mr. Cromer left the Court Room pronouncing anathemas upon his bad luck.

The case of Wilcox & Gibbs against C. H. Hodges was called. Verdict for plaintiff.

Sarah Nickles against Asa Bowie. This was a suit brought on a note given for a negro before the war. Contrary to the instruction from the Court, the jury ordered a verdict for the plaintiff. The judge expressed his displeasure at the result, and exercised his reserved right to set the verdict aside. And the case now remains on the docket as before.

Johnson, Crews & Co. against W. C. Yeroli. This suit involved the validity of the title deeds to a tract of land. The plaintiff claimed that the land was sold to him by the defendant. The jury found in favor of the plaintiff.

W. T. Smith and J. J. Cooper against John R. Smith and others. Judgment obtained in this case for \$350 in favor of J. N. King, Thomas Arnold and Thomas L. Moore, being the amount of the reward offered for the arrest and proof to convince the murderers of the Franklins.

The sale of lands of the estate of John Vance deceased, was postponed by order of Judge Presley till November next, as the privilege allowed to creditors, whose demands have been reported upon to bid to extend of their claims without paying the cash. A referee was also ordered to ascertain the propriety of dividing the Abbeville Tract into two or more tracts.

Judge Presley also held that, unless the order for sale is an express order, or others making sales of land under order of the Court, have no right to resell immediately if terms of sale are not complied with; that such course is calculated to chill the biddings and cause lands to sell at a sacrifice, and that the proper course is to wait until the Court can obtain an order for re-sale.

The cases against the County Treasurer involving the validity of the tax in behalf of the Augusta, Knoxville and Greenville Railroad were continued by the Railroad on account of the absence of material witnesses.

The matter of the appeal from the decision of the County Commissioners sustaining the vote in favor of the tax for the Savannah Railroad, Judge Presley decided that the County Commissioners had no jurisdiction in the matter, and that there could be no appeal from their decision, which was void for want of jurisdiction, and if parties desired to contest the matter they would have to take proceedings against the managers of the election at Magnolia precinct.

The jurors were discharged. Friday, the 13th, after having served eleven days.

It has long been the custom of the Abbeville Bar, at the close of the Court, to have a friendly and somewhat informal interchange of the amenities which usually exist between the Bench and Bar, and to express in appropriate terms their opinion of the manner in which that officer may have discharged the duties devolving upon him during the term. This being Judge Presley's first term, the Bar had requested General McGowan to act as their spokesman in expressing their regards for his Honor. At the proper time General McGowan rose from his seat and said:

"May I please your Honor, this being your first term at this place, I have been requested in behalf of the members of the Bar, to thank you for the ability with which you have discharged the duties of the high and responsible office of Judge, as well as to thank you for your courtesy towards."

The Judge here exhibiting something of nervousness, interrupting the General, said:

"I have made it my custom, General, to rule all such proceedings as out of order, and I must insist upon adhering to my custom in this case."

The interruption was so unexpected that the General was not prepared to say more.

The Bridge Business.

From statements elsewhere made in the Press and Banner it will be seen that efforts are being made by the citizens of Ninety-Six to induce the County Commissioners to build a bridge over the river at that place. It will also be seen that many of the enterprising men of that vicinity have shown their earnestness in the matter, by subscribing money to help the County Commissioners in the work. That a bridge is needed at Bozman's Mill and other points on the river, is not a disputed point. The financial ability of the County to invest so large an amount in this much needed work, is the subject for consideration. On this question, as upon all public enterprises, there is a divided opinion. As a set off to the liberal subscriptions made by Ninety-Six the County Commissioners have notified the citizens of the erection of the bridge at Bozman's Mill, which will come from Greenwood, on the ground that the County is unable to build more than one bridge, and that the bridge should be built at Swaney's Ferry, and not at Bozman's Mill. It is, we learn, contended by the Greenwood citizens that the bridge at Swaney's Ferry would accommodate both towns equally, whereas the bridge at Bozman's would only benefit the town of Ninety-Six.

We are unable to learn the comparative cost of the two proposed bridges, and do not know how much the bridge would cost. The construction of a bridge over the river at Bozman's Ferry, the comparative cost of the two bridges will be of course first considered. The relative advantages to the County to be derived, will next be reckoned, and then the amount of individual subscriptions will have to be considered.

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The Burning of Columbia.

A DARK CHAPTER OF UNWRITTEN HISTORY.

The Report of the Committee of Citizens Appointed to Collect Testimony—Scenes in the Stricken City—Incidents of the Night of Terror Caused by the Great Conflagration.

By J. J. Carroll, Chairman of the Committee of Citizens.

The committee was charged with the duty of collecting the evidence in relation to the burning of Columbia, and on the 17th of February, 1880, submit the following report:

On the 17th of February, 1880, at about 10 o'clock, a fire broke out in the city of Columbia, South Carolina. The fire was caused by a gas stove in the house of a man named John Smith. The fire spread rapidly, and in a short time the city was in flames.

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